

CAREER FOCUS

FTAC—Getting Airmen off to a good start!

BY MASTER SGT.
DAVID HALVORSON
TEAM KIRTLAND

career assistance advisor

In the “old days” reporting to your first Air Force duty station following technical training could be confusing for the first-term Airman, and frustrating to supervisors.

The new Airmen would report to their duty section, then have to “leave” for various appointments needed for “in-processing,” such as finance (to complete their travel vouchers), the military personnel flight, the base medical clinic, legal office, etc.

Supervisors, do you know that there are many briefings required either by federal law, or military regulations for first-term Airmen reporting to their first duty assignment? Unfortunately, in the past, these briefings and appointments were scheduled separately, meaning the new Airmen were in and out of their duty section for their first four to six months after arrival.

It's hard for a supervisor to set up an “on the job training program,” just to have their new troops continually yanked out of the section for a mandatory briefing or appointment at a critical time of their training. Enter the First Term Airman Center Program!

FTAC is designed to aid all first-duty-stationed Airmen with their transition from a systematic and regimented environment into a hands-on employment of the Airmen's skills, knowledge and training gained from basic training and technical school.

“FTAC is a ‘one-stop-shop-program’ that greatly benefits the Airmen and allows them to focus on their job without being tagged for various appointments,” said Master Sgt. Bill Hannah, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Kirtland AFB FTAC.

“Before there was an FTAC program, Airmen were missing many of the mandatory appointments and, as a result, administrative action was taken,” said Sergeant Hannah. “Many NCOs today will tell you that it could take anywhere from 4-6 months to complete all of the essential briefings. Many briefings in those days were much longer and required you to be away from duty for a full day. One of the best features about FTAC is the fact the agencies come to the Airmen as opposed to the Airmen going to the agencies. As a result, no one misses an appointment.”

And Airmen aren't the only ones who benefit from the program.

“Transitioning Airmen out of the technical training mode and preparing them for Air Force mission readiness is important,” said Tech. Sgt. Maureen Sampson, NCOIC for the FTAC program at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

“During the two-week program, we help the Airmen resolve any issues they may have before they start their jobs, so they can have their minds set on the mission and getting the job done,” said Sergeant Sampson. “That includes getting them settled into a new way of life.”



Master Sgt. David Halvorson

No question about it, when Airmen first arrive in FTAC, most are in a state of confusion, and when they leave, they leave with a greater sense of confidence.

Upon completion of the program, the Airmen have improved skills in professionalism, military bearing and customs and courtesies. As a result, FTAC graduates walk away with a better understanding of the rules and regulations in which we live by day-to-day in the military.

So the next time you hear someone say, “How come my Airmen have to be in FTAC for their first weeks on station?,” you can assure them that in the end, it pays to get our troops off to a good start—and that start is offered only at the First Term Airman's Center!



Col. Henry L. Andrews, Jr.
377th Air Base Wing
commander

Ralph Francis
377th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs director

Terry E. Walker, editor

Jennifer E. West
staff writer, 846-4235

Staff Sgt. Markus M. Maier
Sports, Services editor,
846-4236

Nucleus is on the Web
at www.kirtland.af.mil

E-mail articles only
to 377ABW.NUCLEUS
@kirtland.af.mil

Editorial: 846-4235.

Submission deadline
9 a.m. the Friday
before publication.
Deadlines change
for holidays.

Advertising deadlines
Classified:
Tuesday, noon, 892-9400
or observerclass@attglobal.net

Display:
Friday, 5 p.m., 892-9400
or observerads@attglobal.net

Advertising and Production
Robert Lambert
advertising manager

Scott Sanders
production

Sheryl Morales
display advertising
representative

Kristie Erdmann
automobile display
advertising
representative

Susan Saunier
accounting

Melinda Mantilla
Yvonne Korotky
classified
representatives

The Kirtland AFB Nucleus is published by “The Observer,” a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 377th Air Base Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of Nucleus are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or “The Observer,” of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit or merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Command Chief's Choice



Staff Sgt. Keith Martin

Staff Sgt. Keith Martin is a MC-130P Combat Shadow Dedicated Crew Chief assigned to 58th Special Operations Wing, 550th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

His responsibilities are to ensure his aircraft is mission ready at all times to support special operations crew training. This includes the entire scope of major and minor maintenance on the aircraft, detailed inspections and launch and recovery operations.

What do you like best about this assignment?

The weather, and the folks I work with on the flightline.

What are your hobbies?

Playing baseball with my son, fishing and woodworking.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Retired and fishing!

What is your main goal in life?

Be happy with my family.

Favorite movie?

8 Seconds.

FORUM

kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240



Photo by Todd Berenger

Chugach employee Patrick Arnold sprays pre-emergent herbicide on the xeriscaping around base to prevent weeds from growing.

Painting the rocks green

I was just wondering what's up with the painting all of the rocks on base green. It looks kind of like a spray paint job. I think they would look much better in their natural color. Just thought I would throw that in there, didn't know who to direct it to.

Great question! The green you see on rocks around Kirtland AFB is just a pre-emergent herbicide treatment that stops weeds from growing in our xeriscaped areas. Where we sprayed first, that green tint is already fading. In fact, the coloration will be gone from all sprayed locations fairly soon, restoring the natural tones that make xeriscaping so attractive in our desert environment. Thanks for asking.

No smoking outside doors

First, kudos on the locker renovation in the East Fitness Center: the lockers are excellent and a vast improvement over their predecessors.

Second, although smoking isn't

allowed inside the fitness center, enough personnel (mostly fitness center staff and Chugach personnel, from what I've seen) smoke in or near the doorways to ensure everyone inside the fitness center is breathing second-hand smoke.

I've asked some of these smokers to close the doors they're holding open, and to smoke further from the building, and they usually comply at that moment, but then go right back to the same behavior. Any help you could render here would be great.

We're glad you shared this concern with us. Our fitness center team has posted no smoking signs around the front entrance and moved the cigarette butt cans to the north side of the building away from the front entrance. We're confident these changes will improve the environment of the fitness center entrance.

Vicious dogs on base

I'm calling regarding the vicious animals in base housing and the requirement to have insurance. My question is if you drop your insurance what would the base do?

What punishment would incur? Or would living off base be the result?

I contacted the housing office and they instructed me to contact my 1st shirt. I contacted my 1st shirt who told me that if I don't pay my insurance for my dog that it is punishable under the UCMJ, and I will get an Article 15.

I was wondering what is going on with this and what would happen.

Your first sergeant is correct. The policy on Kirtland AFB regarding pets in general and, more specifically, vicious animals, did not change with the privatization of our housing.

All of the applicable guidance with regard to Kirtland AFB Instruction 31-205, Control of Animals, and the ban on vicious animals contained in an installation policy letter, dated Dec. 24, 2002, have been adopted by Kirtland Family Housing LLC, and are still enforced.

Vicious dogs are banned from Kirtland AFB housing. Personnel new to the base may not bring specified



COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS, JR.
377th Air Base Wing commander

breeds of pets (listed in the policy letter) onto the base. Residents owning these types of dogs at the time of privatization (April 30, 2003) were "grandfathered," but must maintain liability insurance with a minimum of \$100,000 coverage.

Failure to maintain this insurance is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice. This violation will certainly result in the eviction of the animal, and could subject the owner to punishment under the UCMJ.

We all have a part to play in keeping Kirtland AFB a safe place to live, work and play. This is just one aspect of making that happen.

On the rocks

I live in Pershing Park, and this morning I received a ticket on my SUV parked in front of my garage and one of my wheels was on the rocks right next to my driveway. We do that so my wife can get out safely in her SUV.

It's a small driveway so it's very difficult to fit both cars comfortably in that area without having to juggle them around.

I don't understand why I got a ticket for this. Evidently this is a regulation from the Housing Office. It would have been nice to be given a heads up about that to start out with before giving me a ticket and the hassle of having to go to the Law Enforce-

ment Desk. I guess a lot of people have been getting tickets for parking a little bit on the rocks, next to driveways.

I don't see the harm in that and I'd like to see what kind of issues or regulation or policy may be taken up about this. What can be done about it? It seems more like a nuance than violation.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. In accordance with Kirtland AFB Instruction 31-204, paragraphs 4.21.2, 4.21.9 and 4.21.9.2, citations may be issued by security forces patrolmen to personnel who drive in prohibited areas, specifically in this case "any area not designated for parking" and "lawns or any other tended grass or seeded areas."

I understand your contention that you were parked in the rocks but you are not permitted to park on areas that are xeriscaped with rocks, bushes and trees.

The security forces patrolman used his discretion in deciding whether to issue a citation or a warning for the violation; he chose to issue the citation.

Housing rules and regulations (rule 19) state that "lease violation notices will be issued by management for such items as excessive noise, littered yards, illegal parking, unauthorized repair of vehicles and driving on seeding areas."

By enforcing this instruction, we can ensure our housing areas are safe and maintaining Air Force standards.

Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691

CE Help Desk, 846-8222

Commissary, 846-9586

Computer help, 846-5926

Energy wasting, 846-4633

Exchange Service, 266-9887

Family Services, 846-0741

Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639

Law Enforcement, 846-7926

Legal Services, 846-4217

Medical Clinic, 846-3406

Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum

2000 Wyoming SE

Kirtland AFB, NM 87117